

nearer are we to the ideal wound-treatment, which is *perfect asepsis without antiseptics*.

The book as a whole is of great value, especially from the completeness with which it presents all the various agents and methods which are available to the surgeon in efforts to prevent or overcome sepsis.

L. S. PILCHER.

DIE KRANKHEITEN DER AUSSEREN WEIBLICHEN GENITALIEN UND DIE DAMMRISSE. Von Prof. Dr. PAUL ZWEIFEL. Lieferung 61, Deutsche Chirurgie: herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Billroth, und Prof. Dr. Luecke. Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke. 1886.

THE DISEASES OF THE EXTERNAL FEMALE GENITALS, AND LACERATIONS OF THE PERINEUM. By Dr. PAUL ZWEIFEL, Professor at Erlangen.

Like some of its predecessors reviewed in these columns, from time to time, this installment of the colossal work on German surgery edited by Profs. Billroth and Luecke gives abundant internal evidence of the nationality of its author.

Dr. Zweifel has the true German love for minuteness, and he crawls over his subject with indefatigable industry. No doubt, in a work of reference, such as the entire compilation is intended for, this laboriousness has its justification; but even in this regard there is good ground for criticism in the part before us in the scanty references to American gynecology, compared with German or even English.

In assigning the subject matter of this treatise the editors have followed the ordinary course of most writers on gynecology; but the divisions chosen are so entirely arbitrary, having no logical justification pathologically, that the result is necessarily somewhat unsatisfactory.

For instance, what could be more artificial than to treat inflammatory conditions of the vulva in one book, those of the vagina in another, while those of the uterus and tubes are considered in a third.

We urge this not in fault-finding with Dr. Zweifel, who, of course, has his province assigned him, but because it suggests a defect in a great deal of our current medical literature, namely, the writing up of one little area in the body almost regardless of its relations to the other portions.

Turning now to the book itself, the two opening chapters on development and malformations are among the best in the book; the author briefly summarizes the most remarkable cases on record, and

his industry in collecting them is worthy of all praise. His practical conclusion that surgery offers the only remedy will be endorsed by all; in this direction it is to be regretted that he has overlooked the interesting case reported in the American Gynecological Transactions by Dr. Campbell, of Georgia.

The third and fourth chapters on Hernia and Injuries of the Vulva are somewhat unsatisfactory.

The fifth chapter deals with inflammation and is fairly satisfactory, though no mention is made of Skene's duct of the urethra acting like the glands of Bartholin as lurking places of infection.

The following chapters on Œdema and Gangrene, on Exanthemata, on Parasites and Herpes, though somewhat spun out, fairly summarize existing knowledge.

The tenth chapter on tumors of the vulva is unusually good, and so is the eleventh on diseases of the ducts of Bartholin.

The twelfth chapter on lacerations of the perineum and their repair is the most important in the volume.

In the analysis of the different forms of laceration, no mention is made of those cases in which there is subcutaneous or submucous separation of the muscles without any external lesion. The account of the ætiology and nature of the different degrees of laceration is fairly well done, less so the therapeutics.

Americans have just reason to complain that all mention of Emmet's work is wanting. Our author goes into a detailed account of the methods employed by the leading German operators in passing their stitches. Some of these are so complex, especially Freund's, that they are largely unintelligible. We cannot congratulate the author on having lessened the confusion already existing on the subject of perineorrhaphy.

The thirteenth chapter, dealing with vaginismus, is good; but no mention is made of the value of cocaine in its treatment.

The two final chapters on Pruritus Vulvæ and Coccygodynia call for no special comment. The book as a whole is a fair sample of the work of the typical industrious German compiler. Its author is a learned man and is proud of showing it; he has not yet learned, as Carlyle pointed out, that the value of any literary structure is not to be measured so much by what shows on the surface as by what goes into the foundation, where it is not seen.

W. M. THALLON.